

# City's Population Now 119,479

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## Torrance Herald

John F. Kennedy  
1917-1963  
(Editorial, Page 20)

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# TORRANCE SHARES U.S. GRIEF

### A Penny for your Thoughts

Students at Torrance High were lunching when the music which normally plays at lunch was interrupted for the announcement Friday of President John Kennedy's assassination in Dallas. We asked several students what thoughts were running through their minds.

**Ann Robinson, 1913 Cabrillo:** "Oh my God no! . . . Today is my birthday, and what a present. It can't be true. It just can't be true. Those poor children. What happens now to the country?"

**Alan Schwartz, 3244 El Dorado:** "I was one of the first to hear of the assassination. I was completely incoherent for a few minutes, and then the only thing that registered in my mind was the real tangible stupidity of some people. I know it will make us all stop and think a little for a change."

**Judi Smenner, 20711 Eastwood Ct.:** "I felt numb with disbelief. It doesn't seem possible that the President of the leading nation in the free world, a civilized orderly nation, could be killed in such a crude manner. I felt a great deal of pride at the reverence and respect of students."

**Marc Billigmeier, 1317 Beech:** "Truly this is a tragic day. A day I will not soon forget. But I feel this this is not the time to break up, but to unite and pray to God that He will give us the strength to endure this time."

**Sharon McMullen, 2715 Arlington Ave.:** "In four years at THS, this was the first time I'd seen the entire student body silent. I feel, like they, that we have lost a member of our family and I find it hard to believe. I hope the person who committed such a terrible act realizes how senseless it was."

## City Nears Ranking as Number Four

Torrance moved a step closer to the fourth ranking position among cities in Los Angeles County this week, as figures released by the Regional Planning Commission placed the city's population at 119,479 as of Oct. 1.

The estimated population is less than 1,500 short of fourth-ranked Pasadena, which had an estimated population of 120,847. Glendale was ranked third, with 129,187.

Since the federal census in 1960, population in Torrance has increased by nearly 20 per cent, while the increase in dwelling units has kept pace. A total of 34,547 dwelling units was estimated by the planning commission, compared to 28,704 in 1960.

**POPULATION** of the entire South Bay and southwest areas, including unincorporated areas east of the Torrance city line, was estimated at 440,776, meaning Torrance has more than 28 per cent of the total population of the area.

Area cities and their estimated populations as of Oct. 1 are: Gardena, 41,177; Hawthorne, 42,239; Lawndale, 25,039; Palms Verdes Estates, 11,614; Redondo Beach, 51,946; Rolling Hills, 1,833; and Rolling Hills Estates, 4,875.

The smallest of the 74 incorporated cities in the county is Vernon, with an estimated population of 208.

### Quizzers End Probe Of Peebles

City Manager Wade Peebles completed two days of testimony before a panel of investigators from the attorney general's office and the district attorney's staff Friday.

"I answered every question as honestly as I could and I was able to document nearly all of my answers," Peebles said.

Apparently tabbed as next in line for the probe is City Engineer Walter Nollac. Officials of the attorney general's office reportedly said Nollac, other city officials, members of the City Council, and Mayor Albert Isen would be asked to appear before the investigators.

Police Chief Percy G. Bennett led off by appearing before the investigators earlier this month. Bennett's first appearance date was called off when he was hospitalized with severe chest pains. He testified later, answering a subpoena served to him while he was hospitalized.

### Dedication of Park Postponed

The dedication of Carson Neighborhood Park, 21411 S. Orrick Ave., has been postponed by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. The dedication was originally scheduled yesterday at 10:30 a.m.

Hahn said the dedication would be postponed indefinitely because of the death of President John F. Kennedy Friday.

### Junior Citizens Day To Be Noted Tuesday

More than 125 high school students from the city's five high schools will join with civic officials Tuesday evening to mark the seventh annual Junior Citizen's Day.

The student leaders will take the place of the city's elected and appointed officials for the day in the program to teach today's young people more about the workings of the government.



DEATH MOURNED . . . John F. Kennedy, shown here with Supervisor Kenneth Hahn just before his nomination at the Democratic National Convention in 1960, will be honored by a grieving nation Monday. All public and parochial schools will close Monday as will city, state, and federal offices in response to President Johnson's call for "a day of prayer and mourning."

## Schools to Close; City Shuts Down

Torrance will join a grieving nation Monday as it observes a day of national mourning for John F. Kennedy, assassinated Friday in Dallas.

Mayor Albert Isen and City Manager Wade Peebles announced that city offices would be closed Monday in keeping with the proclamation issued Saturday in Washington by President Johnson, setting aside Monday as a day of national mourning.

All Los Angeles public and parochial schools will be closed. Torrance schools will close tomorrow, S. E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent told The HERALD.

Most businesses will close, it was reported here Saturday afternoon. Spokesmen for the Broadway Del Amo, Sears Torrance, and the South Bay Mily Co. said their stores would close, and that most stores in the two major shopping centers apparently would close.

Other public offices, state and national, will be closed as the nation pauses to mourn the slaying of its President.

A numbness that is experienced only in times of great tragedy gripped Torrance Friday as the shock of the Dallas shooting which claimed the life of the President penetrated the minds and hearts of the nation.

Most often heard comment: "I can't believe it." Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson summed it up for all when he said "it's not instantly comprehensible."

Torrance, an active city on Fridays, was struck silent by the terrible news as it spewed from radios and televisions throughout the city. In downtown Torrance, shoppers stood on the streets as the public address system switched from the taped music to broadcasts of the assassination.

Telephone calls began to pour into the offices of The HERALD, and then suddenly it was silent. The thousands of calls being placed throughout the city proved too much for the exchange, and it was switched to emergency channels, cutting off most of the phones in the city.

At Torrance High School, students stood silent listening to continuing reports of the Dallas assassination. The students had been at lunch when the

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## Torrance Opened First Library 50 Years Ago

By JERRY REYNOLDS  
Herald Staff Writer

Fifty years ago this month a small collection of books was moved into a home on Gramercy Street. A few days later, those first 300 books became the nucleus of what is today the Torrance Public Library System.

From that small beginning, the Torrance Library has grown much like the city it serves. Today, the library occupies five buildings, serving all sections of the city. More than 88,000 books are housed in the various branches, and an ambitious building program has been under way for some time.

The first books were a gift of Jarred S. Torrance and his friends. The first library was the home of Mrs. Isabell Henderson, who served as librarian from 1913 until 1935. Her daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson, recalled some of the early days for The HERALD last week.

MRS. JAMIESON, who began working in the library in 1928, succeeded her mother as head librarian, a post she held until her retirement in 1961. Her last four years of service were as regional librarian for the Torrance area.

From the home at 1804 Gramercy St., the city library was moved to an old school building on Cabrillo Street. That was in 1917, three years after the Torrance Library had

become a part of the county system. In 1927, the library collection was moved again, to a site on El Prado near the present McCown's Drug store. It was to be there two years while a permanent home was built.

The two years dragged out to three, then five, and finally, in 1937, the collection was moved to the present building on the corner of Cravens and Post. The building was a Public Works Administration project, built at a cost of nearly \$30,000.

EXPANSION was the key-

note for a few years, as the central collection grew. Population increases were heeded, and in 1936 a branch was opened in Waverly. Not until 1952 was another branch opened, this time in North Torrance. Two more followed, the El Retiro Park branch in 1959, and the Isabell Henderson branch in 1961. A new building was recently authorized for North Torrance.

Mrs. Jamieson recalled that the first six months of operation were "very busy." A total of 193 borrowers — perhaps 50 per cent of the population —

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### Ask Town Hall Meeting On Obscene Literature

Members of the Torrance Youth Welfare Commission have unanimously voted to ask the City Council to sponsor a town hall meeting on "Obscene Literature and Juvenile Delinquency: Cause and Effect."

The commission acted on motion of Mrs. Earl Jordan, who also asked that other cities in the area be invited to participate in the meeting.



SIGN OF HISTORY . . . Students at Torrance High replaced the lettering on the school's bulletin sign late Friday afternoon after learning of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The sign was to have read "Happy Thanksgiving" before the tragic news. Tartar students heard the news when the radio music which normally plays during lunch was interrupted. (Herald Photo)

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